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A
P O S T E
VVITH A PAC-
KET OF MADDE
L E T T E R S.

The fourth time enlarged.



L O N D O N

Printed by I. W. for John Smethwicke, and John Browne, and
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43.

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162.



TO THE RIGHT WOR-
shipfull MAXIMILIAN DALLI-
SON of *Hawlin*, in the Countie of *Kent*
Esquire: *Nicholas Breton* wisheth the happi-
nesse of this World, and Heauen
heereafter,



Find in Latine, French, Italian,
and Spanish, bookes of Epis-
tles, dedicated to men, of good
account, as well for their pla-
ces, as spirit; but withall, I must
confesse the Authors of those writings, to
haue beene men of those iudgements, that
haue set downe matter worthy regard; Now
for my selfe, though I cannot stand in the
ranke of those rare wittes, yet noting in
your iudgement that true Noblenesse of spi-
rit, that by the regard of your good fauour,
may grace the workes of an vnworthy
hope, and presuming (vpon my knowledge
of your discretion) to receiue pardon of my

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

presumption, hoping that you shall find nothing displeasing to an honest minde, some things profitable to a youg witte, and wishing all, worthy the fauourable acceptation of your good patience, in all due thankfulnessse for your vnderferued goodnes, I humbly take my leaue.

Yours in affectionate seruice.

NICHOLAS
BRETON.



To the Reader.

GEntle if you be, be you so gentle Reader, you, shall vnderstand, that I know not when, there came a Post, I know not whence, was going I know not whither, & caried I know not what: But in his way I know not how, it was his hap with lacke of heed, to let fall a Packet of idle Papers, the superscription whereof, being only to him that findes it, being my fortune to light on it, seeing no greater stile in the direction, fell to opening of the inclosure, in which I found diuers Letters written, to whom, or from whom, I could not learne. Now for the contents of the circumstances, when you haue read them, iudge of them: and as you like them, regard them. And for my selfe, if I heare you like well of them, when I meete next with the Post, it may be I will cast about with him for more of them: till then, fearing to be too tedious in this Letter, least you like the worse of that which followeth, I rest, as I haue reason.

Your louing friend,

NICHOLAS

BRETON.

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A Letter to a familiar friend, and his answer.
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To his deare and onely beloued Mistris Susan Pearle.



A
POST WITH A
PACKET OF MAD
LETTERS.

A Letter of comfortable aduise to a
Friend,



Honest Alexander, I heare thou art of late fallen into an extreme melancholie, by reason of the suddaine departure of Parinella out of this life: for thy sake I am sorry she hath left her passage on this earth, though being too good for this world, she bee surely gone to a better: now if thy mourning could recover her from death, I could willingly beare part of thy passion: but when it doth her no good, and thy selfe much hurt, let not a wilfull humor lead thee into a woful consumption. Thou knowest she is senselesse in the graue, and wilt thou therefore be witlesse in the world? Say thy loue is extreme; and let me beleue it, wilt thou therefore deprive nature of reason? God forbid it: well, thou knowest I loue thee, and in my loue let me aduise thee, not to goe from thy selfe with an imagination of what was, to loose that which is. because shee is in heauen, wilt thou bee in hell? If shee be halfe an Angell, wilt thou be moze then halfe a Deuill? Do spend thy spirit to a better humor: let not the remembrance of her perfection, dye thee into imperfections: nor make loue hatefull to other, by seeing he unhappines in thy selfe. Do let not fancy be wofull in thee, howsoeuer vertue deserued honour in her. Leave thy fantastike humor, and come and liue with mee, wee will devise some good means, for the remouing of this melancholy. In the meane time, make not too much of it, leaue it chaunce to procure a madnesse: Loue thy selfe, and beleue thy

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thy friend, & what is in me, to do thee good, command as thine owne: glad I would be to see thee, as hee who did intirely loue thee, and so desirous to heare from thee, to the Almighty I leaue thee, farewell.

Thine as his owne,

D. F.

His Answer.

KIND Frank, I haue receiued thy friendly Letter, and note thy carefull loue: but pardon me, if I doe not answer thee to thy liking: Alas, how can hee truely iudge of life, that neuer kindly was in loue? or know how soundly to help a sorrow, that neuer inwardly felt it: Reading makes a scoller by rule, & obseruation I know doth much in the perfecting of Art: but experience is that which toucheth knowledg to the quick. My mistress beauty was the *Prone* Line, whose vertue gaue light to the hearts eye, nor her wisdom, an ordinary wit, which put reason to his perfect vnderstanding: & for her graces, are they not written among the vertuous: Thou saidst wel, she was too heauily a creature to make her habitation on this earth, & is it not then a kind of hel to be without her in the world: Imaginations are no dreames, where substances are the objects of the senses, while the eye of memory is neuer weary of seeing. Oh how it Frank, thinke thou hast not liued, that hath not loued, nor canst liue in this world to haue such a loue to die in: It is a dull spirit that is fed with oblivion, and a dead sense, that hath no feeling of loue: thinke therefore what was, is with mee, & my selfe as nothing without the enioying of that something, which was to me as all in all. Is not the presence of an Angell, able to ransh the sight of a man? And is not the light of Beauty the life of loue? Leauethou to burthen me with imperfections in my sorrow, for her want whose presence was my paradise, & whose absence is my worlds hel: thou doest misconster my good, in languishing for her lacke & knowest not my heart, in thinking of any other comfort: No Frank let it suffice, though I loue thee, I cannot forget

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forget her: and though I live with thee, yet will I die for her: haue patience then with my passion, till time better temper my affection, in which most deuoted to thee of any man liuing, til I see thee, which shall be as shortly as I well can, I rest

Thine as thou knowest, D. E.

A letter of aduise to a yong Courtier.

My good cousin, I heare you are of late growne a great courtier: I wish you much grace, & the continuing of your best comfort: but for that your yeares haue not had time to see much, & your kindnes may hap to be abused, let me intreat you a little now and then to looke to that which I tell you: Take your purse warily, and your credit charily: your reputation valiantly, and your honour carefully: for your friends, as you find them, vse them: for your enemies, feare them not, but looke to them: for your loue, let it be secret in the bestowing, & discreet in the placing: for, if fancy be a wanton twit will be a fool, scorn not Ladies, for they are woorthie to be loued, but make not loue to many, lest thou be beloued of none: if thou hast a fauour, be not pgaude of thy fortune, but thinke it discretion to conceale a contentment: goe neat, but not gay, lest it argue lightnesse, and take heed of lawlesse expence, least it begger thy state: play little, & loose not much: vse exercise, but make no toyle of a pleasure: Read much, but dull not thy braine, and conferre but with the wise, so shalt thou get vnderstanding: Pride is a kind of copenesse, which is a little too womanish, and common familiarity is too neere the Clowne for a Courtier: but carry thy selfe euen, that thou maiest fall on neither side: so will the wise commend thee, & the better sort affect thee: but let mee not be tedious, lest it may perhaps offend thee: and therefore as I live, let it suffice I loue thee. And so wishing thee as much good, as thou canst wish to be wished, in prayer for thy health, and hope of thy happinesse, to my vttermost power, I rest, in affectionate good will.

Thine euer assured, H. L.

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His Answer.

Sweet Cousen, I thinke you haue either some Court in the Country, or els you are much studied in the Courtier, that you can set downe such rules, as are no lesse woorthy the reading then obseruing: to leaue me, they shal be my best lectures studies and in my daily courses my counsellors, my solicitors in loue, & my iudges in honor: my guiders in great & hopes, and my admonitions in greatest dangers: for your paines in this, I thanke you, and for your kindnes, I loue you: your care of me, I see by them, and wil not unkindly forget them. I must confesse, I find courtiers close people, and ladies strange creatures, and loue so idle an humor, that I am afraid to loose time in it: but the better by your aduise I hope to carrie a hand ouer it. For apparrell I will keep my skin, and care for no fond fashion: and for exercise, nature is so giuen to ease, that good qualities are almost out of vse: and for vertue, pooze Lady, she is scarce able to liue with her pension: but for studie, I haue little time, so much company with: & with me: and for a booke, next the Bible, your Letter shal be my Librarie. And thus smiling at such Gulls, as thinke no grace, but in a gay coat, no wit, but in a stale jest, noting many a begger like a king, and many a Lord like a pooze Gentleman, seeing the truth of Solomon, in his conclusion of all earthly comforts: that all vnder the Sunne is vanity: meaning not to bee a seruant to a base humor, noz to reach higher then I may holde fast: in thankfull kindnesse for thy carefull Letter, and faithfull affection to thy woorthy selfe, wishing thee so neere mee, that I might neuer be from thee, I rest

Thine, what mine owne, N. B.

A mournfull Letter to a Brother.

God by other, the misery of my home life, & crosse of my cruel fortune, and the unkindnes of my unnatural kinne, haue made me so wearie of this world, that I long for nothing but my latestt houre, and yet loath to dispaire of Gods mercies, willing to take any good course for my commodity, I haue of late

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I am bin perswaded by some of experience in their trauelles, into those parts, that my travell into the lowe Countries would bee much to my commoditie, as well for my language, as my skill in such trafique, as I would make vse of in those places: but my state being so down in the wind, that I know not how to get by the weather, hauing no stocke to lay out, to giue mee hope to bring in, I will euen set by my rest vpon my resolution of fortune, and thrust my selfe into some place of seruice, where I will either win the horse, or loose the saddle, if I die, mercy is my comfort: if I liue, desert is my hope: I ut to the helping forth of this my foolishnes spirit, good brother put to your hand, assuring your selfe, that I will not liue to be vngreatfull: for as my heart loueth you, my soule shall pray for you, & when I haue time to see you, I will not be from you. And thus agreed to charge you, recurre more meaning to trouble you, beseeching God to enable mee to requite you, in the true love of a naturall brother. I rest

Tours as mine owne, N. B.

His Answer.

DEare brother, as I grieue at your crosses, so would I if I could as well procure your comforts. But my state much inferiour to my wil, makes me vnable to satisfie your expectation: and yet wil I hurt my selfe, rather then you should perish: for you shall receiue by this bearer, what I am able, and more, as I shall be better able. But touching your courtes for the lowe countries, I feare your trafique will be but little gainfull, the wars so eate by the wealth of the countrie: and for your intent touching armes, I feare your forwardnes is too great for your experience. Yet doe I so farre allow of your good mind herein, as I would lesse grieue to heare of your honorable death abroad, then see your discontented life at home: and therefore for winning the horse, or loosing the saddle, leaue that to Gods blessing, who will bestow honor, as it shall please his diuine prouidence: but good brother, haue patience wth thy crosses, attend mercy for thy comforts, and haue a care of home: howsoeuer thou farest abroad: I know thy mind is great, but take heed of pride, leaſt it be a bar

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to all thy fortune, and euerthow' of all thine honoꝝ: I see thou art weary of the woꝝd, make then thy way towards heauen, that God, who hath tryed thee with calamities, may blesse thee with eternall comforts. In hope whereof willing in all I can to helpe thee, praying heartely for thee, with my vnfaigned heart loue to thee, vnto the Lord of heauen I leaue thee.

Thy louing brother, D. S.

A Letter of a Ielous husband to his wife.

Vse, in as much kindnesse as I can, I aduise you to leaue such courses, as are neither to your credite, nor my contentment: you know, much company, causeth many occasions of idle speeches, and yong men are not in these daies, giuen to speake the best of their kind friends: trifles and toys, were better refused, the accepted, and time idly spent, byings but beggery, or a worse blot: of all the birds in the field I loue not a Cuckoe in my house: truly I do not dissemble with you, your light behaniour doth much dislike mee, and how glad I would be to haue it reformed, you shall knowe when I see it. Shall I make you fine to please another, and displease my selfe? Shall I leaue you my house to make an hospitality of ill fellowship? Fit me not so with the foole, how euer you feed your selfe with a foule humoꝝ: shake off such acquaintance, as gaine you nothing but discredite, and make much of him, that must as well winter you as summer you. Looke to your house, haue a care ouer your childzen, set your seruants to work, and haue an eye to the maine chance: leaue tatling gossip, idle huswauies, baw-headed fellows, and needlesse charge, so wil God blesse you, and the woꝝd will thysue with you, your neighbours speake well of you, and I shall truly loue you. And thus hoping that you will by this my secret admonition, haue a care of your good carriage, I rest in hope of your well doing.

Your louing husband, T. F.

Her

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Her cunning Answer.

Husband with as much patience as I can, I haue read ouer your vnwise Letter, wherein Zealosse keepe such a stirre that loue doth but laugh at such Idienes: much company buriu away idle thoughts, and for fooles it is good to be afraid of had I will: All thoughts beget il speeches, and an old dog bites soier then a yong whelpe: for begger y let it fall vpon the clothfull,, I know how to work for my liuing: and for blots, speake to scriblers, for I haue no skill in writing. Now for the bird, to answer you with the Beast: I thinke a Calf in a Closet, is as ill as a Cuckoe in a Cage: If I were fullaine, you would sure suspect my humor, & do you mislike my merry behaviour? wel, your conceit may be deformed, in being so vnngfullie informed, to haue me so suddenlie reformed, My sinnecke is your countenance, and my conuersation your credit: and therefore do you shake off your lowlye humors, I will make choise of better company. your house will stand fast, if it fall not, and your children quieter then their Father: your seruants earne their wages, and the maine chance is nicked well enough: Women must talke when they meete, and men not be scoyned, though not entertained: and hee that keepeth a house must seeke to defray the charge, And so hoping that you will leaue your Zelouzie, and thinke of some matter of moze worth, as carefull of my cariage, as you of your credite meaning to do as well as I can without your teaching, and as well, as if you were at home, I rest.

Your too much louing wife, I. F.

A Letter of kind complements to a Friend.

Vhere I lou. much I speake little, for affection hath small pleasure in ceremonies: your kindnesse I haue found, my desert I dare not speake of, least it moze offend my selfe to thinke on, then you to looke on: but since you haue made me happy in your acquaintance, let me not too long lacke
your

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your company, for though I live among many good neighbours, yet doe I much want the comfort of so good a friend, by whom I should not only gaine the use of time, but find the profit of my desire: which for mingling with your humours, cannot but so cure with your contentment, that if there be a paradise on earth, I hope to find it in the faire passages of our loves, which grounded on vertue, & growing in kindnes, cannot thole but be blessedly fruitfull. In briefe, till I see you, I will mourne: and if not the sooner, I shall languish: for my wishing & want cannot be satisfied with absence: hasten therefore your coming, and make your own welcom: so what I have or am, enter into the roote of your possession, where, in the strâ hold of my love, I assure the substance of my life. And so leaving complements, to tongue spirits, in the truth of an honest heart: I rest

Yours, as you doe and shall ever know me.

N. B.

His answer.

Sir, I have received your kind Letter, and I find you very fine at your corner: you will speake and say nothing: be eloquent in plainnesse: but you must not speake in the cloudes, to them that are acquainted with the Spoke: and say what you will, I must be true of my selfe what I list: for indeed, I know mine owne unworthines of your commendation, in which, I will rather beare with your affection, then be conceited with your opinion. Yet, not to be either disdainfull, or ungratefull, be not so far deceived in my disposition, that wherein my presence may pleasure you, I will answer you with mine absence, nor long delay your expectation: for excuse, is but cold kindnes, and too much haile is not fitt: therefore as soone as I conveniently can, I assure you, you shall see mee, and in full measure with your affection find me, to the uttermost of my power, rather in act, then protection, during life: in faire weather or soyle

Yours as mine owne, W. R.

A

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A Letter of loue to a Gentlewoman.

Faire Mistresse, to court you with eloquence, were as ill as to graue you with grosse humors: let it therefore please you rather to beleue what I write, then to note how I speake: for my hart being fired in your eyes, hath bowed my seruice to your beauty: in which finding reasons admiration, can thinke but of nature in her perfection: in which, being rauished about it selfe, craveth of your fauour to be instructed by your kindnes: I mean no further then in your obedience to your commaundement: for if I be any thing my selfe, it shall be nothing more then you rs: & lesse then nothing, if not yours in al. I could commend you aboue the skies, compare you with the Sun, or set you among the stars, figure you with the Phoenix, imagine you a Goddesse but I will leaue such weake praisling fictions, and thinke you onely your selfe, whose vertuous beauty, and whose honorable discretion, in the care of a little kindnes, is able to commaund the loue of the wise, and the labours of the honest, with the best of their endeuours in the happines of your imployment, to seeke the height of their fortune: thinke not therefore I flatter you in hope of fauour, but honour you in the desert of worthynesse: in which if you will vouchsafe to entertaine the seruice of my affection, what you shal find in my loue, I will leaue to your kindnes to consider. In the care of which comfort: crauing pardon to my presumption, I rest humbly and wholly

Yours deuoted, to be commaunded. E. W.

Her answer.

So I haue heard schollers say, that it is Art to conceale Art: and that vnder a face of simplicity, is hidden much subtiltie: of which, how silly Women neede to bee afraide, I will leaue to wise men to consider. And though I cannot in fine nor fitte termes, aunswere the humour of your wishing yet after a plaine and homely fashion, I will entreate you to accept

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accept of my wishing : Perfection and corruption, cannot meete together in one subject, and therefore my imagined beauty, being but a shadow of deceit, beleeue not your eyes, till they have a better speculation : and for the inward parts of commendations I am perswaded, that wit is not worth any thing, y is drawne into admiration of nothing: onely this, not unkindly to requite your good thoughts of little worth, leaning fictions to idle fancies, let me intreat you not to mistake your figures, & to honour a bitter substance then my unworthy selfe. And yet, so farre to assure your desert of my contentment, that wherein I may conveniently counterwaile the care of your kindnes, excuse my indiscretion, if I faile of my desire : in which wishing you more happinesse, then to be commanded by my unworthinesse, I rest as I may

Your louing poore friend, M. W.

A letter of scorne to a coy Dame

Mistresse Fubbes, if you were but a little satre, I see you would be mightely proud, had you but the wit of a gosse you would surely kisse the gander: but, being with as bad qualities as can be wished, as rich as a new shorne sheepe, I hope, fortune is not so mad, as to blesse you further then the beggar: It is not your hoipy day face put on, after the ill favoured fashion, can make your halfe face, but ougly in a true sight: and but that you are exceedingly beholding to the Tayler, you might be set vp for the signe of the Sea-crabbe. Now for your parentage, to helpe out the hope of all the rest, when the tinkers son, and the Coblers daughter, met vnder a hedge at the milking of a Bull, within forty weeks after, what sel out you know. Now not too plainly to lay open the sowle members of a filthy car-kasse, but as patiently as I can to keepe Decorum, in your description, let me tel you, that all this and much more, being true in your disgraces, I cannot choose but maruell, that you mourn not to death in imagination, to thinke, that a monster in nature, can haue any grace in reason: but, let it be as it is, I haue
but

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but lost a little breath in talking to a deafe eare, for I meane to take no more traueil to the subiect of so ill an object: & therefore meaning to make my saye well, and beginning with you, both at one instant, leauing you so loath your selfe, as one, whome no creature can well be in loue withall: sozie that I euer saw you, and neuer more entending to trouble you. In recompence of your course entertaimment, I rest in all kindnesse: this present and allwaies

Yours as much as may be. T. E.

Her Answer.

MAfter Swath, it is not your husky rusty, can make me afraid of your big looks: for I saw the play of Ancient Pistol, where a cracking colwazd was wel cudgeld for his knaue-rie, your rayling is so neere the rascall, that I am almost ashamed to bestowe so good a name as the rogue vpon you: but for modesties sake, I will a little forbear you, & only tel you, that a hanging looke, and a hollow heart, a cunning wit, & a corrupted conscience, make you so fit a mate for the deuill, y there is no chzistian will desire your chpany: now for your state, it is much vpon fortune, which brings many of your fellows to a deadly fall, when the paine of their heads is only healed with a halter: and for your lineage, when the Beare-wards ape, and the hang-mans mokie met together on a hay mowe, what a whelp came of such a litter, let the world iudge, I say nothing: now for your stumpfeet, and your lame hand, suting kindly with your worie necke, who would not make of their eies, that could indure the sight of such a picture: now, your wealth being but a few words, which you haue almost all spent in idle humors, hoping that the Tortus will not quarrell with the Crabbe, and that when you haue slept vpon your Ale, you wil get a medecine for your madness, till the Woodcocke doe tell you how the Dawcocke hath caught you, leauing further to thinke on you, mo: then utterly to loath you, glad that your entertaimmet was so much to your discontentment: In full measure with your malice, I rest,

Yours as you see, A. W.

C

A

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A Letter to a foule Dowdy.

Mistresse, I heare that you thinke your selfe faire, but you are much deceived: for the Curriers orle, is but a course kind of painting: and for witte, how farre you are from understanding, the wise can tell you: now, for qualities, where you learned them, I know not but if you could leaue them, there well: I wonder not a little, what madnes hath possessed your braines that you can make so much of your selfe: are your eyes your owne: or are they so sealed they cannot see: get you to your prayes and leaue making of lounes, for age and euill fauour, had need to be helped with a good purse. I heare you studie musick, indeed when an Owle sings, the Nightingall will hold her pence, but for shame learne not to dance, for a barrell can but tumble: but you would vse a medicine for your teeth, you might bee the better, to speake in a morning: what ayles you to buy a fan, except it be to hide your face? and till your hands be whole, you should weare but dogges leather for your gloves: in truth you abuse your selfe, that you keepe not your chamber, for none sees you but laughes at you, or at least lootheth to looke on you: be therefore content to doe as I wish you, speake with none but by Atturney, leaue the painter to better pictures, & rather grieue at nature for framing of you, then thinke of any thing that may helpe you: your goods bestow on me for my counsell, and make sute to death for your comfort. And thus hoping that being weary of your selfe, you will hasten to your graue, I end

Yours as you see. H.I.

Her answer.

So you may thinke your selfe wise, but you do not see it: for rapling words, are the worst testimonies of a good wit: for good qualities I thinke you know them not, nor can go to the cull: but for madnes, I thinke it setteth best with your humour. For the helpe wherof, it were good that you were let blood in the braine: but for ill sight, who is so blind as bold Bayarde.

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that will not see his owne folly: my prayers I will not forget to God, to blesse me from such soule spirits on the earth: & for loue more then Charity, I hold you the farthest off in my thought: now knowing your pouerty, I woder you will speake of a purse: as for an illfaoured face, go to Parith garden to your good brother: indeed your Croidon languine, is a most pure complexion but for your Tabacco it is good purge for your reume: for my Fan it keepes me some time from the sight of such a vizard, as your good face: and for my hands, I keepe my nailes on my fingers, though you cannot keepe the haire on your head now for laughing at fooles. you are prouided for a corcombe, and for lothing an ill countenance, let the hangman draw your picture: be therefore contented to be thus answered, speak wisely, or holse your peace, and be not busie with your betters, lest you know the nature of had I wis: so, hoping that you will be so weary of the world, that you will hang your selfe for a medecine to heal your wits of a melancholy, I will bequeath you a halter vpon free cost, at your pleasure: and so I rest

Your friend for such a matter, F. P.

A Letter for the preferring of a Seruant.

Sir, knowing your necessarie vse of a good seruaunt, and remembering your late speech with me touching such a matter I thought good to commend vnto you in that behalfe the bearer hereof W. T. a man whose honest secretie, and carefull diligence vpon a reasonable trial, will soone make prooofe of his sufficiencie his parentage is not base, nor his disposition vile, but in all parts exquisite in one of his place: such a one, as I am perswaded will fit your turne: if therefore at my request you will entertain him I doubt not but you will thanke me for him: so; I was glad to get him for you, and hope to heare, he will much content you: and thus loth to trouble you with longer circumstances, leauing his seruice to your good regard, and my loue, to your like commandement, in affectionate good wil, I rest

Yours euer assured, N. B.

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The answer.

Sir, I haue receiued both your Letter and the bearer, both which I will make much of for your sake: for in the one I will often see you, and in the other remember you: your commendation of him, argueth your knowledge, a sufficient warrant for his worth, which I will as kindly, as thankfully thinke on: his countenance I like well, and his speech better, & for the performance of my expectation, am the better perswaded, of his discretion: when I see you, you shall know how I like him: in the meane time, he shall find that I will loue him: for all things necessary for his present vse, I find him sufficiently furnished: but if I find his want, it shall be soon supplied. So thanking you for sending him, and wishing you had come with him, remaining your kind debtor till a good occasion of requitall, with my hearty commendations,, I comitt you to the Almighty.

Your very louing friend, R. T.

A Letter of counsell to a friend.

My best approued, and worthiest beloved, Philo, I heare by some of late come from Venice, that seeme to be somewhat inward in thy acquaintance, that thou art of late fallen in to an amorous humour, especially with a subject of too much unworthinesse: a newes, that (knowing thy spirit) I could hardly beleue, that vpon solemne affirmation. I was sorry to heare: for beauty without wealth, is but a beggarly charme, and honour without vertue, is but a Title for a Title: hath she a glib tongue it is pittie she hath no better wit, is she witty, it is a sorrow, it is no better bestowed: for the craft of one woman, is the confusion of many a man: doth she say she loues thee? beleue her not: nay, doth she loue thee: regard it not: for it is a iewel of so little worth, as will glue but losse in the buying: I feared the plague had taken hold of thy lodging: but thou art peppered with a world of infection: thy study is infected with idleness, thy bzaime with

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with dizziness, and thy spirit with madness. Oh leaue these follies, thinke loue but a dreame, and beauty a shadow, and folly a witch, and repentance a misery: wake out of thy sleepe, and call thy wittes together, be not sotted with an humoꝝ, nor slave to thy selfe: will leaue courting of a Curtizan, and keepe thy breath for a better blast: saue thy purse for a better purpose, and spend thy time in more profit, let not the wise laugh at thee, and the honest lament thee, for my selfe, how I grieve for thee, I would I could tell thee: but let thus much suffice thee: beloeue nothing that she saith, care for nothing that she doth, nor giue her any thing that she wants, see her, but to purge melancholly, talke with her, but to sharpen witte, giue her, but to be rid of her company, and vse her but according to her condition, so shalt thou haue a hand ouer those humoꝝ, that would haue a head ouer thy heart: and be master ouer thy senses, by the vertue of thy spirit: other wise, Will hauing gotten the bit in his teeth, will runne away with the bridle, and Reason being cast off, may neuer sit well againe in the saddle, but why doe I vse these perswasions for the remoue of thy passions? If thou be soundly in, thou wilt hardly get out: but if thou be but ouer shoes, thou maist be saued from drowning: well, whatsoeuer I heare, I hope the best, but to auoid the worst, I haue presumed out of my loue, to send thee the fruit of my affection. In which, if my care may do thee comfort, I shall thinke it a great part of my happinesse: howsoeuer it be, I commit the consideration to thy kindeenes. And so till I heare from thee, which I dayly long for: I rest

Thine as his owne.

N. B.

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His Answer.

Gentle Millo, I haue receiued thy most kind & carefull letter, a messenger of thy most honest loue, who hath told me no lesse then I wholly beleue: that loue in idlenesse, is the very entrance to madnesse: but yet, though I will thinke on thy counsell, giue me leaue a little, to go along with conceit: whereof let me tell thee my opinion. Beauty without wealth is little worth, but being a riches in it selfe, how can it bee poorely valued? and honour, being but the state of vertue, how can you plucke a tittle out of her title: the tongue is the instrument of wit, and wit the approuer of discretiō: where, if Reason bee graued, nature may be admired: now for wordes they haue their substance, and loue is not to bee abused: so; it is a Jewell well knowne, that is worth his price: infections are euery where and ielousie a most cruell plague: but rid thy selfe of that disease and feare not my health in the other: reconceit is a kind of distemper, which worse tormented then with idlenesse, is troubled with too strong a madnesse, but he that is but wise, had need to be reformed, and he that laughes at an imperfection, may fall himselfe vpon the fool: now for a mad dreame, or an imagined witch: a conceited sleepe, or an intreated walking, I must confesse they are pretty humors, and will think of their errors: now for sotteing and flauery, & for courtting in knauery, bee perswaded that time will imploy my purse to a better purpose: then giue me not for more but enely loue me, and let that suffice thee: and for thine aduise in seeing, talking, and giuing, feare not the bad twist of my sollic: for hee that is maister of himselfe, shall not neede his Mistresse, and therefore hee that cannot ride, let him leaue the saddle: for Reason hath a power over Wit, where Wit is but as seruant to Nature: in the certainty of which course, intending so to lay my hand on my heart, that I will feare no harmes on my head, with many thanks for thy kind perswasions, hoping thou wilt take no exceptions at my constructions, intreating thee to beleue of mee no more then thou needest, and to loue

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loue me as thou doest, in the faith of that affection, that holds thee deare to my loue, I rest during life

Thine obliged and deuoted, W. B.

A Letter of comfort to a Sister in sorrow.

DEARE sister, I heard lately of your husbands departure for the Indies, when with no little sorrow I considered your heauy case: in which finding his want to bee greivous, and your friends cold in comfort, I could not chuse, without unkindnes, but remember these few lines of my loue vnto you: I know your state is weakke, how faire soeuer you make your weather but the more is your patience worthy honour, that can so nobly conceale your discontentments: for my selfe, I would I were able to doe you good, but what I haue or can procure, shall not faile to doe you pleasure, but if your mind be too great to stoop, to be beholding, what I am able to doe, take a duty in my brothers loue: god sister therefore be of god chere, and put your care vpon me, I will see you often, and loue you euer: for a creature of your worthinesse, is seldome found in your sex: that for her husbands loue will aduenture the state of her living, your children are not many, but such as are shall be mine, and you to me as my selfe, take therfore as little thought, and as much comfort as you can, no doubt but God that tryeth his seruants, will blesse them, hope then of my brothers happy returne, and till he come command me. Shortly God willing you shall see mee, in the meane time let me intreat you kindly to accept this little token of my greater loue, which is but assurance of the beginning of my affections neuer ending, in which predicament of true friendship, I rest euer assured.

Your loving Sister

E, VV.

Her

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Her Answer.

Sweet sister, I haue rece'ued your kind letter and louing tokens, for both which, I am your thankfull debtoz, but touching which husband, though his wants were grieuous, yet to want him is my greatest sorrow, for in the stay of his loue, was the state of my living, I am sorry that you knowe my weakness, and wish it but in strength to answer your kindnesse: but good sister, though I am willing to conceal my crosses, to be beholding to so honourable a spirit, I count it not the least of my happinesse. Wherefore, though I had deuoted my selfe to solitarinesse in his absence, your companie shall be to me as light in darkenesse, and noting the nature of your kindnesse will euer be beholding to your loue: come then to me when you will: & command me what you wil, for I wil be as good as you wil, my children are my wordes loyes, and my hearts setuels, in whose faces I will behold their father, in whose loue I will spend my life, so in a merry go sorrowe, grieuing for his absence, & wishing your presence, praying for his happie returne, your health, and mine owne patience, that in too much passion of affection, I shal not be on indiscretion, with most hearty thankfull loue, I commend my life to your commaundement.

Yours affectionately bound,

E. G.

A Letter of loue to a faire Mistresse.

Faie Mistresse, to trouble you with a long circumstance, I might perhaps feare you with the losse of time, and to make an end ere I begin, might argue little care in my conceit, but to auoid both suspitions, let me a little entreat with your patience, to pursue in a few words, the sum of a long tale, in which I truth of loue, to the latest houre of death, protesteth I top of his life

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life, but in the fruite of your fauour, of which the thought of his vnworthinesse doth too much shew his unhappinesse. Time makes me too briefe but in your loue I am as my hope of vn der standing, that in my triall you may trust mee, and by desert e- stee me, in which, if I deceiue your expectation, let mee die in the misery of your disdaine. Thus not to flatter you with a false stile, in the state of your worthie commendation, beseeching to bee commaunded by the kinde care of your discretion, in the bands of auowed seruice, I humbly rest

Yours alwaies assured.

R. O.

The answer.

So, as I would be loth to be thought proud, I would as vn- willingly bee found idle: either to beléue too well of my selfe, or not to haue a respect of other: Truth is sildome masked with smooth words, and loue is not bred, but vpon great content ment: your likeing may be greater then my desert, and so alter vpon a better consideration: but mistake not your happinesse in my fauours vnworthinesse, where the best of my commande- ment, may be the least of your contentment. Your consideration of time may excuse my shortnesse of writing, where, in a word you may vnderstand, that indeed I entence, that truth is ho- nourable in loue, and vertue the fairest toy in affection: in which if I do not misconstrue your conceits, I wil answer the care of your kindnesse: in which, according to the due of desert, you shall find the effects of your desire. And so for this time I rest

Your poore friend,

A T.

D

A

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A letter of counsaile from a kind father.

My deare sonne, you must not from your father looke for
a flattering loue, nor take it unkindly, that I suspect your
ill courses: for I haue passed the dangerous time that you
now are in, and haue hardly gone through the byers: and there-
fore in a zealous feare, from an inward care I cannot chuse but
giue you warning of what may preiudice your good. Beauty is
a bewitching object, and wa:tonnelle is the ruine of wit: prodigality
quickly makes a pooze man, and hee is onely rich that
liues contented. But my good sonne, aboue all things serue
God, and keepe a cleane conscience, passe not the limits of allea-
grance, nor build Castles in the ayre, take heede of extremities
for they are out of the course of discretion, and the fruit of igno-
rance yields but the sorrow of repentance, yong men may bee
witty, but seldome wise, and sometime though Act bee a great
perfecter of experience, yet obseruation is better then conceited
cunning. Experience is necessary vpon occasion, and hope is not a
mistake vpon desert, but Reason sometime is more regarded then
rewarded, where Will is too powerfull to be resisted. I heare
that you are much giuen to Alchymistry, it is a studie of great
charge to many, and profiteth few: yet I forbid you no good la-
bour, so that you loose not by the bargaine. Use therefore a care
in the employment of your time, and wherein my help may fur-
ther your good, seeke no other friends for your comfort:
For though I would not wish you to disdayne my kindnes, yet
would I haue you as little as you may to be beholding to any
man, for the prodigali are commonly talkatiue, & the conceited
negative, and what a griefe it is to want, I pray God you ne-
uer know. Any qualittie in a mediocrity, I gladly allow you, but
let not your loue be carried away with any idle imaginations. I
haue sent you an hundred Crownes, well may you vse them,
and when you neede any more, send to me for them: for your affe-
ction touching marriage, I would it were bestowed as I could
wish it, howsoeuer it be, it shall be much amisse if I mislike it. I
haue

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haue sent you likewise a horse, now and then to manage in a morning, but I pray you forbear to vse him as a hackney to ride vp and downe the streets in idle humors. Conuerse with no foolcs, for you shall loose time with them, & take heed of knaues, for there is much to be leared in them. Long not after newes, least you be guld with a Feast: and take heede of drunkenness for it is a beastly humor. Make much of thy money, & abuse not thy friend: be carefull of thy selfe, and forget not thy Father, whose earthly joy is but in the hope of thy happines, and whose deadly sorrow would be to see thee do amisse. What shall I say more to thee? thou knowest I loue thee, and onelie in my loue am thus carefull ouer thee. Accept then my admonitions, and ponder vpon the constructions, they may hap to do thee good, but harme they can do thee none: Use them therefore for thy best advantage. After the terme, the vacation will call thee into the Country whers knowing thy Fathers house, thou maist make thinge some welcome. Till when and alwaies, I will pray for thee, & God will so blesse thee, that I may haue joy in thee.

Your louing Father, H. W.

A kind Answer of a louing sonne.

My deare father, as I will not flatter my selfe with your loue, so can I not but joy in your kindnes: whose carefull counsell within the compas of so few words, I will lock vp in my heart, as the best trewell of my life: for to serue God, is the duty of a Christian, and no longer let me lue, then in the car. of that comfort. A cleane conscience I find like a cleane paire of sheets where the soule after labours may take a safe place of rest: to passe the limits of allegiance, merite the losse of life, and hee is bozne unhappie that is unnaturall to his country. and ayrie Castles are but madd mens imaginations: I know extreames are not dureable, nor often profitable: and repentaunce a payment, that pincheth the heart of vnderstanding.

I find the instruction of the aged, to be the best direction of the

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Youthfull, & obseruation with experience to make the perfection
 of Art: the necessitie of experience cannot bee avoided, but the
 hope of desert may be deceiued: for while I still stand for iudge-
 ment there is no holding of argument: touching Alchymistry
 I heare much, but beleue little: and for the charge, I will not
 wast your land, to make a new mettall: but if by my industrie
 I can doe good, I will take the benefit of it: for qualities, I
 thanke your large allowance, the best meanes with labour to
 attaine them: for Teachers, are woorthy their rewardes: to bee
 beholding I loue not, & hate to be vngratefull: But as I follow
 not the prodigall, I haue little pleasure in the conueus: and for
 idle imaginattons, I can vse them as fictions: for your crownes
 I humbly thinke you, and hope to bestow them to your liking:
 Your horse will doe me much pleasure, and cause mee to see you
 the sooner. For gallopping the streets, it is like chylzen, upon hob-
 by-horses, but gide by heades haue such humors, that God know-
 eth what will become of them: for marriage, though the course
 be honourable, yet could I be content to forbear it, though in
 the direction of my affection, I will be much ruled by your di-
 cretion: fooles cannot vnderstand me, and knaues will but troa-
 ble mee: but from the company of such ill conditions, the Lorde
 of heauen deliuer mee: good newes come neuer too soone, nor
 badde too late, and therefore as they are I will esteeme them: for
 dynnersse neuer doubte me, for it is most loathsome to my
 nature, and for my money, though it be my seruant, I will holde
 it as my good friend for my friend, he shall bee my selfe: but my
 Father my hearts loue, and my lifes comfort: in whose carefull
 admonitions, how kind I find thy instructions, the obedience
 of my duty, shall make knowne to your contentment: the vaca-
 tion is nere, and I will not bee long from you, where finding
 you well, shall be my best welcome: so thinking my selfe blest in
 the heavens, to haue so good a Father on the Earth, beseeching
 God to make me loofall in your eyes, by the graces of his mer-
 cies, in prayer for your long health, with your hearts euer hap-
 pines: In al humble thanks I take my leaue

Your obedient sonne, T. VV.

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A Merchants Letter to his
Factor.

AS I have reposed trust in your care, I looke for your performance of my credit: your ability in managing such matters as I have committed to your charge, I make no doubt of: and therefore hoping in your discretion to heare of my expected contentment, I will looke by your next letters to heare of the summe of my desire: in the meane time let mee tell you, that I have sent you over fourescore broad cloathes, and thirtie carzies with such other commodities as I thinke fit for your vse in those parts. I pray you make your best market, and take heed of your Creditors: for I heare there are men reputed of great wealth in suspicion to play banquerupts: haue therefore a care of your businesse, your travels shall not be vnconsidered: your French Wine I heare this yeare are very small, and your Gaskoigne Wine very deare, Bzunes cheap: but you know your markets, and so I hope you will haue care in disbursing your money for it is hardly come by, and as this world goes, doth much in great matters: if there be any newes of worth, acquaint mee with them, and in any wise, doe not trouble me with vntruths, your Cousin tels me that you are in good regard with the Gouernour, for certaine cloaths that you lately bestowed on him, he told me the cause, and therefore I commend your discretion: for sometime it is better to giue then to saue, when it turneth to advantage. In summe, let this suffice you without further circumstance, you haue my loue, and my p^rse, I pray haue a care of them both, so till I heare from you I rest

Your loving Master,

W. H.

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His Answer.

Sir, I beseech you mistrust not your trust nor have any feare
of my care: for having both your loue & your purse, how can
the one let me forget the other: So sir be you assured howsoe-
uer banquiers play banquet out, sure payons will deceiue no cre-
dit: and touching such affaires as I haue in charge, doubt not
your expectation of my dispatch, your cloathes I haue receiued
and like them very well, your Carries are very good, I would
you had sent more of them, for they are much in request & well
sold. I haue by god hap met with a hundredth Tunne of Gas-
coigne Wines vpon a good market, as you may know by my
note. Wines are good, and good cheape, and herfore I haue sent
you greater store of them, on the fastest you shall finde my
marke, with two letters of your name, I haue sent you like-
wise, a Tunne of Cuckmiles, which I bought by a great chance
the price you shall find in my note with the rest. By the next
Post you shall heare what I neede: in the meane time hauing
no intell'gence of worth, loath to trouble you with trifles, glad
to performe that duty that your kindnes hath bound mee to,
wishing to liue no longer, then to discharge the office of an ho-
nest care, praying for your long health, and euerlasting happi-
nes: I humbly take my leaue,

Your faithfull seruant, C. B.

A Letter of challenge.

My wrongs are so many, as may no longer bee digested,
and your excuses so idle, as I will henceforth dispise them
for your words are but wind, and therefore I am weary of
them: and therefore if you be not of so cold a complexion that
you dare not maintaine your reputation, make me to morrow
early in the morning, in some fields a mile out of Colone, and
bring with you such Armes as you doe ordinarily carrie: assigne
your place, and hower, and faile not your appointment, that
God

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God the Iudge of right, may determine of our sayings, and the point of the sword may put a period to our discourses. Thus hauing blowne ouer an idle paper, with a few last words of importance, answer me as I expect, or heare of me as it will fall out, in haile.

Your enemy to the death. T. P.

The answer,

What you haue writtten to me, I returne vpon your selfe, as loth to lose time in answer of such idleness, if you durst goe alone, I would go with you, but let it suffice you that I know you, and therefore mean not to trust you, but bring a friend with you and I am ready for you, come to my lodging as early as you will. and though I would bee loth to breake a sleepe for you, yet I will take a little paine to answer you, and for the field we will cast lots for the place. where God & a good conscience will quickly determine the quarrell: but I feare, the point of the sword will make a comma to your cunning: which if it doe, you shall find what will follow. And so leauing further words, wishing you to be as good as your word, I end

Yours as you mine, H. W.

A merry Letter, or newes of complaints

Honest George, mine old scholesfellow, and kinde friend, I am glad to heare of thy home quiet, how euer I fare with my farre trauell, whereas thou writest vnto me, for such newes as this place yeelds, let me tell thee, that there are so many, and so fewe of them true, that I dare almost write none, onely this vpon my knowledge I dare deliuer thee: that of late, in this Citie, there are a number of complaints: every hour in the day, but all to little purpose, The souldier complaines either of peace or penury: the Lawyer either of lack of Clients, or cold fees: the Marchants of small trafficke, or ill fortune: the Tradesman of lacke of chapmen: the labourers of lacke of worke: the poore men of lack of charity, and the rich men of lack of money

the

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the theefe of the lacke of booties, and the hangman that his trees are bare: in briefe, if I should tell thee of all the complaints that I beare of, as well among the Feminine, as Masculine gender, how some old women cry out of yong vnthrifts, and some yong wenches complaine of old misers: How some complaine of their customers, and some other of their neighbours, it were such a world of idle stuff, as would but trouble thee in the reading: but since their complaints are all to little purpose, for that souldiers are but for extremities, though honourable in their exploits, & Lawyers are soe troublesome, except vpon agreement of controuersies, though Iudges are wortbie honoz in execution of iustice: & merchants may beare with fortune, when their coffers are full of coyne, though in respect of their traffick, they are the maintenance of the Common wealth, and Tradesmen may sell cheape, when their best wares are all vttered, though it is necessary, that they be set on worke for the maintenance of the State, and labourers may rest when their haruest is in, though it be needefull to set them to worke for the avoiding of idlenesse, beggers may hold their peace, whē they haue filled the patches of their profession, though it is not amisse to relieue them for the exercise of charitie, now the rich men may shug their shoulders when they haue no vse for their bags, though sometime it bee requisite rather to be sparing, then prodigall, and for the theefe let him sigh till the hangman do helpe him, and for the hangman let him mourne, for he is sure the Deuill lies in waite for him, and therefore let the old mē still munch and the yong title mourne, I cannot help them, but as I heare of their complaints, I haue written thee the contents, which beeing scarce wortb the reading, I leaue to thy worke vsing. And so soz that I haue no matter of wortb, wherewith better to fit thine humoz: in as much kindnesse as I can, I commend my loue to thy commandement and so I rest.

Thine euer as his owne. W. P.

The

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The answer to the laugh.

My good wag, I see I amell hath not so altered thine humor but thou wilt euer bee thy selfe with thy friends: for thy kind Letter I thanke thee, and as kindly as I can, will requite thee: as you are there full of sorow, wee are heere full of mirth: for in every place there is nothing so common as laughing: one laughs at another, the wise man laughs at the foole, to see the nature of his imperfections: and the foole laughs at the wise man, because nature lets him know none of his sorowes, the rich man laughs at the poore, to see the manner of his life, and the poore man laughs at the rich, to see the misery of his care: the faire laughs at the foole to see how they are dispised: and the foole laugh at the faire, to see how they are troubled: the honest laugh at the knaue, to see how hee shifts in the world: and the knaue laughs at the honest, to see how his simplicitie is abused. For particulars, how any one laughs at another, either the old at the youtfull, or they at the aged, I dare say nothing: but wert thou here, and I had not the more cause of sorow, wee would laugh a little together, to looke at the laughter of this world: but they say, he may laugh that wins, at least till he lose againe: but the natures of their laughing are euers, and very strange, for some laugh so loud that they are noted foolishly, some laugh so low that they shame their mouths for lack of teeth: and some laugh so cunningly that they smother it up in a smile: but let them laugh till they be weary, it is a good world when men are merrie. Which hoping thou art, so praying thou maist be, that when wee kinde ly meete wee may commune better of these conceits. Wishing thee all contentment, and my selfe the happynesse of thy good company: till I see thee, and euer I rest, one and the same

Thine as thou knowest.

R. W.

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A Letter to a friend for newes.

Cuzen, I know you that liue abroad in the world, cānot but heare of newes every day, which we here in the countrey, would be glad now and then to be acquainted with: your labour will not be much in writing, & for your kinnesse it shall not be vnrquitted: we heare much murmuring of many things but little truth of any thing, but from you that know, I would be glad to learne. There is a speerch among some idle Astronomers, that the man in the moone hath salne in loue with a star, and walking through the cloudes, was almost drowned in the water: and that the tumblers of the forrest, haue spoiled a number of blacke Conies, so that Rabbets are so deare, that a poore man may be glad of a peece of mutton. It is said here with vs in these parts, that you of the cittle are much troubled with a new disease: truely we haue reasonable good health, but that there are such plagues in others houses, what with threwoode lxiues, and cuill husbands, lubbockne children, and wicked seruants, that many honest men cānot liue in quiet with their neighbours. Though the spring be not verie forward, yet there is great encrease of many thinges, especially of children, which how they may answere the Law, I will not greatly stand vpon. Thus hauing no matter of moment, to heere with at this time to trouble you, entreating you that I may shortly heare from you, I rest, in much affection

Assuredly yours, R. T.

His Answer.

My good couzen, to answere your kind letter, if there were any thing here worth the writing, I would not haue bin so long silent: but such are the occurrents in these places, as are either not worth the noting, or better vnspeken then written: for loue in youth is so full of violence, and malice in age so malicious, that vertue is so hid in corners, that there is little or
nothing

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nothing spoken of her account. For the man of the Spone I leaue him to waite on the Sun, but he haue a mind to any Star I leaue him to followe y^e twilight for his watery element, since it is all in cloudes, let it hang in the aie, I will not trouble with his leaueing Astronomie. For Countes I am no warrenter therefore let them that haue the keeping of the groundes, looke to their game: I haue small sport in such Tolence, but for a peece of Sputton, a yong Lambe is worth fiue old Countes, and he that is not glad of such a feast, let him fast for his dinner. For our new disease, it is with many men in the head, and women in the tongue, seruants growe great libertines, and children are sick of the parents: and for neighbours, there is so much leue in the streets, that there is almost none in the houses, and therefore besides other ordinary diseases, we want no plagues to make vs looke into our sins. But God amend all, for one will scarce mend another, and therefore intreating you to haue patience with mee till the next weeke: when you shall heare of the best news, that come to my hands, I rest in Louden god will

Yours as mine owne. N. R.

A Diswaue from marriage:

Sweet Cousin, I am sorry to heare that being so well at ease you will cosin your selfe of your quiet: & for want of a worlde's hell, you will put your selfe in purgatorie with a wife: but if it may be that I speake in time, I care what I say: the bee saies it may breed reason, if so be, dislike, and charge: if rich, take heed of pride: if poore misery: if young beware the wanton: if old, take heed of the Belderie: if wise, I will gaerne thee: if foolish, she will let thee: how dreare sooner she leaue thee, she will sometime or other either crosse or flatter thee: therefore if thou wilt be ruled by a friend, let neither old nor young, saie nor scule trouble thee: beleue me as I haue read, these are the properties of most wiues, to weaken strength, to trouble wit, to impatie purples, and to breede humors: but if I be deceived in my reading, or mine Autho^r in his writing, either in altering your

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course, or procuring your comfort, tel me your mind when wee meet Till when, wishing you continuance of that quiet, where in you now live, or the true contentment of the best loue: leaving to your discretion, the managing of your affection, I commit you to the Almighty.

Thine ever as his owne, T. W

The Answer.

GOD counse, I find your kindnesse about your knowledge, in mistaking Paradise for Purgatory: for a wife is the wealth of the minde, and the welfare of the heart: where the best iudgment of Reason findes discretions contentment. May bee, is a doubt: but what is, must be regarded, in which sense I am pleased: wh re youth with beautie, and wit with bettue, haue power to command, there kindnesse must obey. Poverty I fear not, and wealth I seeke not: but it sufficeth me, to seeke no other fortune, for the summe of my worlds happines: where the avoiding of euill, & the hope of good, makes me know more comfort then you are able to conceiue, till you enter into that course, wherein the top of loue is the second blessednesse of this life. Tell that shall I say, but that I know not what to say, to expresse the perfection of this pleasure, that puts downe all idle imaginations: from which, hoping to see thee remoued, when I see thee. Till then and euer I rest

Thine as thou knowest, B. D.

A kind letter of a Creditor for money.

Sir I pray you take it not unkindly, that I write thus earnestly vnto you, for more necessity then will hath brged me vnto it: my money is not so much, & you wel able to discharge it: my losses by sea and all Creditors by land, makes me strayne surtelle with my friends, for their good helpe in an extremitie, yet do I desire nothing but my due: but as I was ready to lend

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I would be glad to receiue: with that fulnesse of good will, that may continue our kindnes, I write not this, au doubting your discretion: but to intreat your patience, if your purse be not in tune: for were I as I haue beene, and hope to be, I had rather beare too long, then aske too soone, especially of so good a friend as I haue allwaies found of your selfe. Consider therefore of my case, & in your kindnes answer me. Time is precious: & therefore least by disappointment, I be dis furnished, & so perhaps discredited, I pray you speede your answer: which, howsoeuer shall be welcome, and therefore earnestly intreating you to helpe me now, that I may the better quit your kindnesse hereafter, with many thanks for your great fauors, which cannot be forgotten to be deserued: I take my leaue, further at this time to trouble you, but will rest in what I shall be able euer to pleasure you, to make you know how much I loue you.

Your louing fr end to command, T. R.

The debtors Answer.

Sir your request is so reasonable, and your kindnes so much, that for a greater matter then your demand, if my purse were not in tune, I would straine my credite very far for you: beare then with my a little forgetfulnesse of my day, and thinke it not trouble to my patience, to be put in minde of my credite: your sea losses I am sorry for, and wish your recovery by land. Debtors that wil not pay make creditoz they can not lend: but for my selfe, to make you know, how much interest you haue in my affection, let me tell you, that though by some v unexpected expenses, I am short of my hoped reckoning, yet vpon the receipt of your Letter I haue bene thus careful for you, your money I haue sent you, & as much more for so long time. I will lend you: which you shall receiue of this bearer, and in my letter, the day of payment: which if it may pleasure you so much as I wish you I am glad I had it for you: howsoeuer it fall out. Use it to your owne discretion: and so far be alwayes assured of my loue, that
my

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my word and deed shall be all one in your comfort. And so leaving ceremonious complements, in briefed good will, I rest. Alwaies to my uttermost power,

Yours as mine owne. D. W.

A Letter of newes.

TO perforce my promise in my last Letter, my kinde and best Cousin, you shall take stand, of such occurrences, as I heare goe current for truth: I heare there are certaine old people, that speake much of Prophecies, & let it yet sit it to me, for a certaine rule, that this yeele and many to come, hee that wants money in his purse, and a friend in the court, may walke in the country, and picke strawes for his comfort: for the law is very dangerous for begging, & the title is so cold, that the poore must starue, rather then the rich will want. Old men shall neuer be yong againe in this world, and beauty in a young woman, will not let her know her selfe. Honesty will cut wat, will die on the soles, and craft without credit, will labor to little purpose. In summe, there will be a great plague among the poore with lacke of money, among soles for lacke of wat, and knaues for lacke of honesty: but it may bee, nature may alter her course in many things, and Prophecies may fall out in contrarieties. Whosoever it be, welcome it to come in Gods name: and so hoping thereof least no legitimaine, nor best beled away with blind Prophecies, writing this onely for exercise of a merry humor, I rest

Thine what mine, P. R.

The answer.

Such idle prophecies as you write with, have such kind of matter as you write of: but let the world wagge as it list, there is not a truer wagge in the world then it selfe: and were it not, that I feare my letter would come to light, I would answer you

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word with such a bird, as you may hold for your Tœnix, and thinke thy mind at best libertie, when it is free from the bands of folly. In fine, let me intreat thee to make thy house a home, thy wife thy worlds loue, and thy children thy earths top: which as I hope thou wilt be glad to haue, I shall be glad to see. For good speed whereof in hearty prayer I rest

Thy loving Cousin. R. W.

His answer.

My kind cousin, I see you are better read then experienced for Batchellers wifes, and Maidens children, are pretty things to play withall: but he that knows many dangers, will take heed of all. A wife is an everlasting substance, which if it bee not of the better nature, is a perillous thing to medle withall: for if it catch hold of the hands, it may put the heart to a sore paine. and the Phoenix is such a figure, as if I must finde her in a woman, I feare me I must seeke a great way for her. For the lawes that you speake of, I yeeld to truth: but loue is so nice an humor, that he ieldome settles in a place: for Bachelards, I loue not the breed: and better Children will doe well when they come: For bedde and board and those trickes, let them for in them that haue them, when I finde time, I will thinke on them: in the meane time, more at quiet in my lodging with a friend, then perhaps I may bee at home with a wife, not forswearing marriage, nor poasting to purgatory, in stead of mistaken paratle: wishing thy prayers for my beiter happinesse, then louers ioucnesse, and if I see marry to be kindly matched. I rest

Thine as mine owne.

D. L.

A

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A Letter of vnkindnesse vpon a deniall of a Courtesie.

IF my deserts had not exceeded my desire, I would haue hated the nature of my humour, which loues nothing lesse then to be too much beholding: my request was not much, and the grāt but easie: howsoeuer for ill fashon, the excuse may be cunningly framed: but though I conceiue vnkindnes in this course, I can rather grieue then be angrie, for I will mistrust my wit, till I see too much of my sorowe, & lone my friend, though I be plaine with his patience: be content therefore rather to let mee tell you of my discontent then to couer a dissimulation, and to wish your better regard of my affection, which in denying a trifle, may loose a greater benefit: but not to go too farr in impatience, let me thus grow to an end: friendship once grounded is not easily remoued: and therefore beeing assured of my loue, beare with my dislike, and wherein I may better pleasure you doubt not the ill requitall of vnkindnesse for I can chide & not be angry, and better loue you then tell you so. And so entreating your reasonable answer for my satisfaction, I rest, all displeasure set apart.

Your louing friend, N. S

His Answer.

YOUR humorous kinde of writing, puts me to studie for an
Answer: for your anger without cause, may moue cause of
anger: you knowe you might commaund what I am, and
will you haue more: Conceit may be deceiued, and so kindnesse
abused, and suspicion of impatience hath the least part of discreti-
on. Excuses are idle among friends, and therefore words shal be
deferred till our meeting: when, seeing your owne fault you wil
not thinke amisse of your friend, grieue not then without cause
nor be carried away with conceit: and as you know my nature,
ff
command

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command my loue, which is farre from the thought to make a
se. end beholding: bee not discontent with a deniall, till you haue
better reason of displeasure: but measure me with your selfe, and
you shall find small cause of difference: if there be any, let kinde-
nesse dispute it, reason confesse it, and patience heare it, so shall
friends be themselves, and you and I shall not fall out. So ho-
ping that you will satisfie your selfe with this answer, till wee
meet to talke further of the matter, I conclude with your kind-
nesse, and rest euer.

Yours as you know, T. W

A Letter to an vnthankfull person.

I haue heard that a prince sometime ordaining a punishment
for all offences, lest ingratitude to the Gods to plague, as past
mans power to punish inough: the Tale may well bee true,
considering the vilenesse of such a nature, as I thinke the like
liueth not in the shape of man. Couldst thou not onely forget,
but abuse my kindnes, and so make a monster of a wicked sha-
dow: I could not haue beleued it, had I not too well proued it:
But I wish you could leaue the humoz, least it make a loath-
some nature: and though I will not reuenge a wrong vpon a
subject of so much basenesse, yet wil I learne to know the con-
dition of so much vilenesse, and as well warne my friends from
an enemy, as further abuse mine owne witte with so mistaking
of a friend In brieve therefore, let mee tell you, as I know you, I
regard you, and as I sound you, I leaue you, as one fit, if there
lacked a Carde, to put in the stocke for a wicked helpe. And so
sory to haue lost so much time to write to you, I wish al y world
that knowes you to hate you.

Your enemy from the heart, D. M.

His Answer.

How strangely men will write, that impatience doth put
out of order A good turne is lost, when it is cast in the re-
creauers teeth, and abuse misconceined, can hardlie bee well ex-
cused

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used: consider better of what is done, then wrong the meaning of a good minde, and you shall find without excuse, no true cause of displeasure: if the information of malice haue moued choller without iudgement, worse men must endure the misery of euill fortune: against my selfe I will confesse nothing, but refer time to decide all doubts, when truth shall put the differences betwixt a shadow and a better substance. So leaning ill humours to like minds, and good thoughts to better natures, hoping to find you your selfe, which will be farre enough from that you write: in spight of the diuell, I commit you to God: and so rest

Your friend whether you will or no, D.R.

A Letter to laugh at after the old fashion
of loue, to a Maide.

After my hartie commendations, trusting in God that you are in good health, as I was at the writing hereof, with my father my Mother, my brothers & sisters, and all my good friends, thanks be to God. The cause of my writing to you at this time is, that Ellen, I doe heare since my coming from Wakefeld, when you know, what talke we had together at the signe of the blew cockoe, & how you did giue mee your hand and sweare that you would not forsake me for all the world, and how you made me buy a Ring and a heart, that cost mee eightene pence, which I left with you, and you gaue me a Raphin to weare in my Hat, I thanke you, which I will weare to my dying day: and I maruele if it be true as I heare, that you haue altered your mind and are made lute to my neighbor Hoglins yonger sonne: truly Ellen you doe not well in so doing, & God will plague you for it, and I hope I shall see, & if I neuer haue you: for there are more maidens then Paulkin, and I count my selfe worth the whistling. And therefore praying you to write me your answer by this bearer my friend, touching the truth of all, how the matter stands with you, I commit you to God.
From Callow Greene,

*Your true Louer, R P,
Her*

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command my loue, which is farre from the thought to make a feare beholding: bee not discontent with a deniall, till you haue better reason of displeasure: but measure me with your selfe, and you shall find small cause of difference: if there be any, let kindnesse dispute it, reason confesse it, and patience heare it, so shall friends be themselves, and you and I shall not fall out. So hoping that you will satisfie your selfe with this answer, till wee meet to talke further of the matter, I conclude with your kindnesse, and rest euer.

Yours as you know, T. W

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I haue heard that a prince sometime ordaining a punishment for all offences, left ingratitude to the Gods to plague, as past mans power to punish: enough: the Tale may well bee true, considering the vilenesse of such a nature; as I thinke the like liueth not in the shape of man. Couldst thou not onely forget, but abuse my kindnes, and so make a monster of a wicked shadow: I could not haue beleued it, had I not too well proued it: But I with you could leaue the humor, least it make a loathsome nature: and though I will not reuenge a wrong vpon a subiect of so much basenesse, yet wil I learne to know the condition of so much vilenesse, and as well warne my friends from an enemy, as further abuse mine owne witte with so mistaking of a friend. In briefe therefore, let mee tell you, as I know you, I regard you, and as I sound you, I leaue you, as one fit, if there lacked a Carde, to put in the stocke for a wicked helpe. And so for to haue lost so much time to write to you, I wish al y world that knowes you to hate you.

Your enemy from the heart, D. M.

His Answer.

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From Callow Greene,

Your true Louer, R P,

F 2

Her

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Her answer.

Thuelly Roger, I did not looke for such a Letter from your hands, I would you should know, I scozne it: Hane I gotten my Father and Mothers ill will for you, to bee so bled at your hands. I perceiue and you be so zealous already, you would be somewhat another day, I am glad I finde you, that you can beleue any thing of me: but tis no matter, I care not, send mee my Rapkin, and you shall haue your Rings & your Hart, for I can haue enough, if I neuer see you more, for there are more bachelars then Roger, and my peny is as good siluer as yours, & therefore seeing you are so lustie, euery put vp your pipes, for I will haue no more to do with you: And so vnlaying all that euery hath bene said betwixt vs, make you choice where you list, I know where to be loued: and so I end, from Wakefield.

M. I. R.

From a Father to his Sonne.

My Sonne, I hope so well of your disposition, that you will not unkindly conceiue of that which in loue I write for such is the nature of my affection, as I had rather bee vnderstood in carefull aduising you for your good, then sound wrinking at your ill: it is told me, which I am sorry to heare, but would be more agréued to beleue, that you are very ready in writing your name vnder billes and obligations: by which, as well for your owne idle expences, as to pleasure other in hurting your selfe, you beginne to take vp so fast, that I feare you will be so low taken downe, that you will hardly euery rise againe: beleue me Sonne, suertishippe is a priuie enemy to a good nature, which may sooner pay thee then receiue one: and therefore among other things that I would shew you to take heede of, let suerishippe bee one of the chiefest: what you can spare your friend, denie him not: but as you love your libertie,

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tie, beware sealing and deliuering: Play is but losse of time, that might be better imployed, for the gaine is but vngainfull, and the losse is often grienous: and therefore vse it little, and rather for company, then pleasure: Dauncing I allow of, but let not your Legges sling away your witte, in wastting your wealth: spend by measure, howsoeuer your Musicke make you Daunce be carefull of thy speech, thysitie in thy expence, warie of thy company, and zealous of thy friend: serue God and feare not the diuell: what thou needest let me know, and in thy care of my counsell let me see thy loue: of which hauing no doubt, and therefore wishing thee all good, desirous shortly to heare from thee: I rest.

Your louing Father T.VV.

The answer.

My deare Father, farre be it from my heart to haue an vnkind thought of so kinde a Father, in whose good aduise resteth the most part of my worlde's happinesse: for as you haue heard, which I beseech you to beleue of mee, I haue sene in other so great mischiese, and miserie to ensue vpon suertishippe that I will rather wish neuer to write, then to subscribe to my ruine. For so few pay their owne debts, and so many pay for others, till they haue nothing to pay for their owne, that who keeps my friendship for that end, shall misse of my loue in another, and therefore feare not what you heare, but beleue what I say: touching play, I loue not to trouble my braine with idlenesse, nor lose time in the abuse of hope: for dauncing, as it is an exercise that I not dislike: so is it not so much my delight, but I can rather leaue it, then loue it: but for my expences, feare not so much my little care of your charge, nor lesse regard of your loue: in which vnder heauen holding my hearts cheife happinesse, in prayer for your health and hearts ease, I take my leaue.

Your obedient sonne.

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To a friend familiar.

Having little matter. wherewith to entertaine your expectation, I haue bene enforced to studie for nothing: by this bearer, I know you looke to heare from me, and to salute you with silence were a cold commendations: let it therefore suffice you, to heare of my health, and the good passages of all your proceedings, touching your law causes: wherein if my loue faint my labour, I will leaue to be my selfe: ere it be long I shall haue occasion to come neare you, when a few milles shall not be a little out of my way to see you, when if your Faulcon bee in tune, I will be glad to see a flight: so soone as conveniently you may, I pray you let me heare from you: and if you come to the Towne, let my house be your Inn, where making your owne welcome, I hope we shall be merry: And thus for want of matter, b'cause then I would be, I commend my loue to your kindness, and so rest: Alwaies

Your assured loving friend. M. R.

The answer.

He that hath his wits at commandement, needeth little to studie, and therefore being provided of inuention, a little matter will serue turne: if of nothing you make so much, what would you do of a little more, Thus I wryte to meet with your humor, which in silence speaks more, then hee who talks much to lesse purpose, in this, for your kinde letter I thanke you, for your care of my business, I will haue care of you, and for your selfe onely I loue you, if you haue occasion to come towne, use my house as your owne, my Faulcon hath killed a Partridge but of her flight I will make no brag, but when you come you shall see sport, that I am perswaded will like you: in the meane time glad to heare of your health, the continuance whereof I heartily praye for, wishing as soone as convenientlie you may

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may to see you, that we may trie a course with our grey hounds
for a fat Bucke, hauing now no matter of import, where with to
trouble you: With my most heartie commendations, I commit
you to the Almighty

Your very louing friend, C. L.

To a familiar friend.

Either paper is scant, your affayres are great, or your spirit
is lazie, that in so many weekes I haue not heard from you
so much as how doe you: the cause I would be glad to knowe, so
it be not such as I shall be sozry to heare, that either lack of health
or libertie, be not the cause of your silence: I pray you therefore
mend this little fault in friendship, to cease the trouble of imagi-
nation, and in a sufficient excuse set my thoughts at quiet, which
being much distempered thozough doubt of your health, haue
sent this bearer vpon purpose vnto you: whom I beseech you in
all loue returne to mee with all speede: helues wee haue none
wozth the writing, and therefore knowing your spirit, desirous
not to be troubled with toiles, in that heartie love that holds you
as deare as my life, wishing no greater woordes comfort, then
in the continuall enioying of your happy companie: hoping
shortlie to see you here, which can be no sooner then long wished
and shall bee ever most welcome, in the vnfaigned affection of a
true friend I rest

Yours as mine owne, N. B.

The Answer.

I perceiue it true, that I haue often hearde, that loue is not
without ielousie, but as fearefull of hurt, as carefull of good:
but to put you out of all doubt, that may bee some disquiet
to your wished rest, let it suffice you, to know my health as you
left it, I thanke God for it: my affayres are not such, but I could
salute mee
irrit so lazie, but I coulde write a let-
ter

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ter to my so much beloued : and to excuse my silence, let mee tell you, that the last weeke I wrote vnto you by your fathers bailiffe, who I maruaile hath not deliuered it ere this time: in that letter you shal find my mind touching your suite in court: which I feare if it be tedious, will proue moze chargeable then commodious : but observing a good course, a good opportunitie may be prosperous: in my letter I haue written at full vnto you, where in I hope you will cleare all suspicion of any fault in my silence and expect my comming downe ere it be long: in the mean time with heartie thanks for all kindnesse, without any further needlesse complements: I rest

Yours or not mine owne. R. B.

A Long Letter.

Faire Mistresse, if vpon so small conference, wordes may haue credit, thee shall not liue, whose fauour shall commaunde moze of my seruice: for such is the vnfaigned affection, in which I haue deuoted my selfe to your imploiment, that if there be a heauen in this world, I will seeke that Paratise, but in your kindnesse: thinke not I seeke with Eloquence, to creepe into your good opinion: for I had rather bee, then seeme to bee, him that you will I shall be, for such being your worthines, offarre moze honour, then the seruice of my affection, mistrust not his truth, who hateth the thought of dissimulation, and wisheth no greater happinesse, then in the honour of your commaundement: for losing but you, being fauoured by you, I cannot bee happie, but in you, to court you with flatterie, is too common a follie, and to buye your kindnes, were a cocest of balenes: but to aow your seruice, let it be the dutie of loue, which from my heart to your eies be a messenger of my true thoughts, who with al their powers, to my vttermost power, haue conlared me in true seruice

*Yours only and wholly, I. M.
The*

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The Answer.

GOD Sir, to abuse your kindnes, were as ingratiuous, as to admit your seruice, might be dangerous: and therefore not vnthankfull for your offer, giue me leaue to consider of the acceptation: a suddaine passion holds not, and a first vie we may be deceitfull, lead not then your heart by your eyes, to the hurt of your spirit, and seeke not happinesie in commandement, where libertie is so much contentment: liking may bee short of loue, and fancie may be mistaken in the true felicitie: but if truth haue deuoted your loue, honour will bee thereward of your seruice, which if you shall proffer to a more worthe, you shall make your selfe the more happie: for my selfe I will thinke the best, till I find the contrarie: but to auoyd the worst, blame me not to be carefull, a good beginning with a better proceeding, promiseth a blessed ending, which wishing you in all those courses, where truth is honorable in all her actions, hauing no occasion of your imployment, in a friendly title of commandement, ready to requite that kindnesse, that is honourable in construction, I rest, as I find cause

Your lou'ng friend, M. R.

To a familiar friend.

Having so fit a messenger, I could not let him passe without some remembrance of my loue vnto you: wherein if I may any waies please you, I will bee readier to performe it then speake it: touching such things as you wrote vnto mee by the Carrier, I haue taken such order for them, as I hope will be to your content, not a little glad that I had so good opportunity to speake with the parties, so soone vpon your letter. I assure you, I found them as tractable as you could wish. I haue stayed all causes till your coming to Towne, when I hope to bring all matters to a good end: I haue sent you by this bearer a
C
runclet

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bundle of Sacke, I hope not of the worst, howsoever it bee, I
wish it better then it is : I pray you take it in good part, and
write me word how you like it: that I may either thanke my
Whitner, or change him: netoes here are none but old, or falsse:
And therefore onely wishing you all happines, with my hearty
commendations to your self, and to your good bedfellow, I com-
mit you to the Almighty. London this 1. of July, 1604

Your loving friend, T. W.

An Answer.

I haue receiued your kind letter and friendly token, for both
which, with many other your good fauours, I most heartily
thanke you, and for your care of my businesse, be you assured it
shall not be forgotten. I will be at London if I can, within this
moneth, when you shall rule me in all things as you list: I am
glad you haue spoken with them, & hope by your good meanes,
to haue a peace after a long warre: if it had not bene for mine
Ague, I had bene with you the last weeke, but as soon as I am
seuall, I intend to see you: in the meane time in requitall of
your Sacke I haue sent you a saite Doe, which if it please like
your wine, I am sure it will passe without warrant: as it is I
commend it to your kindnesse, and my selfe to your commande-
ment: and so hoping of your good health: which I pray for as
mine owne, with thanks to your wife, for my Banbery chafe,
for which I haue sent her a pound of pepper that she wrote to
me for: ready in what may lye in our powers to pleasure either
any one, or both of you, as one: I take my leaue at this time,
but rest, alwayes

Your poore friend, M. R.

A letter of loue to a faire Mistrisse

Sweete Ladie, if the reach of my capacittie, could define the
Scope of your fauoure, it should be a strange peece of seruice,
that I would refuse at your commandement: but, when I
think

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thinke vpon your Noblenesse, and then behold mine owne vn-
worthinesse, I can but swallowe vp those sighes that dare speake
nothing of my loue: and yet when I know that the eyes of ho-
nour regard vertue in no little grace, in the seruice of honour.
I can feare no ill fortune, in the nature of which humblenesse,
throwing my heart vnto your hands, at the feete of your fauour
laying the bright of my hopes happinesse, till occasion of imploy-
ment, and euer deuoted to your commandement, I rest with-
out rest, till I may euer only, and wholly rest

Yours, in al I am, or not to be my selfe at all, D. G.

Her Answer.

Sp2, I haue heard it of the wise, that if hope time to honour,
vertue is a good hold, whose seruice the most noble doe most
fauourably entertaine, in the nature of which humour, if your
affection be groundes, haue no feare of fortune, howsoeuer enuy
be your enemy. Who speakes all in saying nothing, may vn-
derstand an answer by the like reason, and thinke that hande
vnworthy hono2, that will not kindly regard the heart of loue,
leane then the sighes of feare to the fainelesse, and swallowe
not a Suddyn in a dreame, but as you find cause of honour, so
performe epyther your loue or seruice, which too good for an vn-
worthy, reuerie for your better fortune: And so in the best sort of
kindnes ready to requite your good meaning, I rest in what I
may

Your assured friend, T. N.

Roger to Margery his sweete heart.

MArgery, I haue receiued your fawpish letter, whereby
I see you are more angrie, then I thought you would
haue bin for a misword or two, but I hope to mend what is a-
misse, for I see I was too blame. for now I find the knaury of
the world, I will looke a little better to my selfe, for it was your
Cozins doing to deuise lies to set you & me out, but if you wil be
ruled by me, we will meete with them wel enough: vpon Fry-

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day, He meete you at the market, where we will haue a Cake and a pot, at the Pickcrill and the Spurre, there we will strike vp a bargaine, that will not be broken in tast: and so sorry with all my heart, that I haue done, as I haue done: sending thee twenty kisses by my sister Parnell, and this bolvrd groat for a loue token, I rest

Yours from all the world, R. H.

Her answer.

O Roger, the world is wel amended: I thought you were misused, to write to me as you did: but friends are neare so farre out, but they may be as farre in againe: and therefore since it was against your will, I forgive you with all my heart: and let my cousin doe his worst. He not goe from my word: on Thursday, He meete you at ten of the clocke, and bring a peece of Bacon in my pocket, to relish a cup of Ale, when, it shall goe hard, if all hit right, but some body shal wipe their nose for their knauery and so Roger, hoping that you will no more abuse me as you haue done, to beleue lies and tales of me, till you know the truth: treading all unkindnesse vnder foot, I rest with all my heart, as I was and will be euer

Yours as you know, M. R.

From a Yeoman in the Country, to his Sonne
in London.

Sonne, you know what charge I haue borne at with you, as wel in bringing you vp to London, as in suraithing you for your preferment: all which I hope you will haue such care of, that I shall not thinke any thing lost that I haue done for you: in any wise serue God, please your Master, and be carefull of such things as you are put in trust with, be rather an example of good then of euill, and haue patience with all things, howsoeuer you are crost in your expectation: beware of euill company, and pride, and drunkenness, and false heed of following
of

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of faire women. I shal be glad to heare well of you, and as I see you thrive, you shall finde me kinde: your maister is an honest man, and a good trade is gainefull: but I hope, I shall not neede to be too earnest in advising thee for thy welfare, God who hath created thee, I hope will so blesse thee, that I shall have joy of thee: and for my selfe, with my blessing, I have sent thee herein enclosed a token of my loue, vse it to thy good: shortly, God willing thou shalt heare further from me: in the meane time and euer I rest.

Your loving father, T. N.

An Answer of the sonnet to the father

My good father, I have receiued your kind letter, and token, for which I humbly thanke you: and for such things as you wish me to haue care of, be you assured, I will not bee vnmindfull of: for my Maister, I thanke God he putteth mee in trust more then I will speake, and vseth mee so kindly, that I were a Iewe, if I shoulde deceiue him: but my Maister is so perrilous a woman, that if shee bee displeased, there is no quiet with her: but all the house may learne patience of my Maister: and therefore I will feede her humour, and let her haue her saying: for women when I meane to wile, I will thinke on my choyce: and for euill company, I hope God will blesse mee out of such, as are not for my good: and therefore feare not, but I hope one day to giue you cause to thinke all well bestowed: that you haue or will lay out for mee: I haue sent you by this bearer a hauking bag, my mother a paire of gloves, & my sister a girdle: my Maister hath him heartely commended vnto you, and to my Mother, and desires you to send him by a good cheese, which hee will requite: he hath sent my mother a pound of sugar, and giueth her thanks for her fine puddings: this is all, that at this time I haue to write vnto you, and therefore beseeching your blessing, praying to God for your health and long life, with my humble duty to you: my good mother, and commendations to all my friends: I commit you to the Almighty. London

Your loving sonne, R. D.

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To a wife in the Country.

God wille, in all kinde I commend me to thy selfe, assuring thee that I thinke it long, till I haue dispatched my businesse, and am at home againe: but I hope of good successe in my suite, for my counsaile do warrant my case cleare: vpon fryday next I shall haue triall, which I doubt not will goe on my side: if it do not, my thought is take, for I thank God I can līue without it, though I would be loth to lose it, my health I thank God I haue well, and pray for the same with thee and thine: I pray you send me by xx. pound by this bearer, with all speede: and within five days after the dispatch of my businesse, expect my coming downe: in the meane time kisse my little babes for mee, to whome with thy selfe send my heartes hoping commendations, and so in hast I commit thee to the Almighty. London,

Your louing husband, W. T.

The wiues answere.

Sweet heart, your messengers haue made me byleser then otherwise I would be: the good dispatch of your businesse I hope and heartily pray for, your health I am glad of, and your return cannot bee so soone as wished for: your mony I haue sent you by this bearer, your little ones, with my selfe would be glad to see you, who doe not a little misse you, for diuers causes too tedious at this time to trouble you withall: but in any wise remember your girls Cause, and your boyes Hatte which will not be a little welcome: but good husband, make one end or an other with it, this Terme: least delays and demurres make you to spend more in it then it is woorth: but you knowe what to doe, better then I can aduise you: and therefore leauing to your discretion, to do what shall best please you, I commit you to God. In hast

*Your louing wife,
M. W.*

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A Letter vpon ordinary causes:

Sir, it is giuen me to vnderstand by some, that lately came from thole parts, that in the Ilands, there haue arriued of late certaine fishermen, that by a crosse winde and suddaine Tempest, are diuen into your harbour: if it be true, and that they lye there for any time, I pray you faile not to buy mee a hundredeth of Ling, as much Haberdene, and other fish, such as you thinke good, I would lay out a hundredeth pounds willingly, what you lay out, you shall vpon your letter haue paid here in London, to whom you shall direct it: I haue sent you downe by the Carrier a peece of broade cloath, of the same colour whercof you wrote vnto mee; I am assured it will bee to your liking, if you neede any more, or any thing els that may be in my power, I pray you make as bolde of me as any friend you haue. Celestia, no; poore John I haue no neede of, and therefore hoping that you will husband my purse as a friend, with my hearty commendations, I commit you to the Almighty, London, this eight of Nouember. 1604,

Your louing friend, T. R.

The Answer.

Sir, your letter and price of cloath I haue receiued, for which I heartely thanke you, for which you shall receiue your money by my Couzē at Dice key, whē it please you to send to him: But for the fishermen, indeede they put in for a night, but in the morning the wind came faire, and they put to sea againe: so that except a few Ling, that they bestowed vpon our Waior and bayliffes, for some fresh victuall that they had from vs, there was little bought heere at this time: but wee heare of them, that shortly we shall haue a flecte come by vs: when if there be any good to be done, I will not faile to be friend you to your content, in the meane time, wishing any good occasion wherein I might requite your kindnesse, in prayer for your health and hearts ease, I commit you to God: Yarmouth, this xvi. of September, 1604

*Your assured to command, D. N.
A.*

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A letter to a friend for dispatch of businesse.

I Am bolde to entreat your kindnesse, to speed me in what you may, touching the purchase of the Millcs and the Hoppe-gardens, for which if your neighbour will take mine offer, I am for him: or else I must otherwise determine of my money that I haue reserved only for that vse. I am offered great pennyworthes in diuers places, but theyre pleaseth me well about that house, and the Troutes in the little brookes haue made mee haue a great mind to dwell thereabouts: if therefore you can bring him to my price, I will be beholding to you: if not, let me know his minde and I am satisfied: for to tell you troth, I will haue it, though it cost mee more then it is worth: and so entreating you to do me what good you can herein, for which you shall not find me vnthankfull: I rest

Your loving friend, A. W.

The Answer

I Received your letter dated the xlii. of this Moneth, whereby I vnderstand your mind touching the lease of the two Milles and the Hoppe garden: but I cannot bring it to passe, one penny vnder the summe, whereuppon hee tels mee you were in a manner agreeede: the man is hard, but very honest: and the land is good, and lyeth finelie to the house: the soyle is healthfull: and there is good store of Springs, besides the Riuer is not farre off, whereby you may haue carriage weekly from the Citty vpon a small reckoning, but vse your discretion, the price you know, and me you may commaund, but time would not bee deferred, for there are many about it: and therefore leaning to your discretion, either take it, or refuse it, with assurance of my helpe to the vttermost of my power, either in this or what els may pleasure you, I alwaies rest

Yours as you know, T. D.
Hef

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Letters of loue betwixt *Rinaldo* and *Lorina*.

Fairest of the world, and sweetest on the earth: the beautie of whose eyes, puts the best wits to admiration: and the wisdom of whose government, commands the honoꝝ of loues service: how should my amazed spirit, hope of power to presume neere the happines of your fauor? No, fortune is my eternall sworn enemy, and desert must take place in a bigger reach, then the longest arme of my unworthinesse: yet let me not bee so depriued of reason, that I may not looke into the nature of vertue where honoꝝ in kindnesse, makes beauty Angelicall, but in the humilitie of affection to offer the impliment of my service, in which, if I faile the expectation of your affection, vpon the condemnation of insufficiencie, let disgrace be my deadly punishment where, in the labour of sorrow I may languish all my daies: but if the Fates be not too forward, in crossing the indures of my dutie: be you gracious vnto Love that hath wholly sworne me your servant, with which title if I may be honoured, I will take no other colours of my choice: but fearing your unknowne occasions of affaires, I will not be tedious to your patience, but rest euer in my loue.

Your vowed, though not allowed servant. Rinaldo.

Her answer.

Vttpest of a hundred, and craftiest of a thousand, whose eloquence like enchantments, would take prisoner a weake iudgement, how shall my simple capacitie conceiue the myst of your deice? fortune is but a fiction: and therefore it is no matter for her friendship, while desert hath a power in the preferment of pietie. and loue in vertue gives an honour to beauty: where if reason be carefull, affection may be topfull: but leaue Angels to the heauens, and take heed of diuels of the earth: which vnder the cloake of humilitie hide the head of ambition: perfection hath no affinitie with corruption,

¶

and

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and what the heavens determine the world must endure: but in flatterie of my perfection, you haue deceiued my expectation, whotmyning you wise, am sorrie to see the contrarie: and if I might bee iudge, the Lawe shoulde quicklie haue his course, where dissimulation appearing, shoulde bee condemned to perpetuall dishaue: but hoping better of your humour, then to wrong the simplicitie of beliefe, let the patience of affection leade you out of the labyrinth of sorrow, to the mountaine of that blisse, whose vertue may giue you grace, and in the comfort of your chiefe care, you may finde the heaven, or your hearts soy, to the attainment whercof, leauing your thoughts to their best issue, I rest as I may.

Your friend, Lorina.

Replj.

The high hono^r of your vertue, that from the merit of your graces, stieeth through the world so farre beyond shame, as makes her amazed at her wonder: so dampeth the power of my spirit, that as an eye which in beholding the Sunne, twinkleth with the lids, for feare to loose the light: so the humble eye of my heart, that in beholding the bright beames of your Sunnie beautie, trembling in feare, by presumption to loose the light of loues hope, so committeth it selfe, to the will of that power, which in pittie may saue, or in furie may kill the life of that creature, who at the feete of your sauiour, hath laide the height of his felicity: shew therefore the heauenly nature of that vertue, which may purchase your worthie honour: take not pleasure in destruction, that may be gracious in comfort: but leaze the hart by your eye, that hateth the light, but in your loue: where in the glasse of clearest grace, truth may see her beauty bospotted, & hono^r: in truths seruice, craves but the entertainment of employment: in which time I will confirme, that care shall euer conclude my thoughts shall be only honoured in your seruice, and my loue euer happie in your commandement: in hope whereof if I may, I will rest.

Yours euer, Rinaldo.

Her.

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Her Answer.

The low course in loves comfort, that you take to leade you into my liking, is so farre from the nature of good desert, that I know not whether silence were a fitt answer to silence, or reprehension a fitt reward for jurisdiction: and therefore in doubt what to doe, pardon mee if I doe not as I should doe, for though wisdome would admit no cause of danger, yet courtesy is such a Law in Nature, as is too great a science to love: yet, if I could chide, and not be angrie, I could wish you leaue a creeping climbing, least you be thought a baser creature, she may stand with the honoz of your condition: leaue a twinkling eye to owlie sights, and figure not the sunne in the cipher of a shadow: nor presume farther then you may passe without fear, but in submission vnto that discretion, that may maintaine the reputation of affection: and be perswaded that vertue cannot be ingracious, howeuer she runne vpon destruction, neither is hateful to nature, and leue is the top of reason, what then should trouble a good spirit, that is possessed of no euill humour: but in the resolution of honour, to build the hope of his happiness: and while colours are fitt for painters, to march vnder the ensigne of truth, where in the field of fauour, vertue carrieth the victorie: to the triall of which service, leaving the happie event of your adventures, I rest as I may,

Your poore friend assured.

Lorina

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A familiar letter to a friend in the Country.

How neere is ingratitude to forgetfulness I wou'd be loath my silence should make prooffe, especially knowing the kinde welcome of my unworthie letters, and therefore understand you, that all things are here as you left them, health nothing impaired, and our substance, (if we may so terme our drasie treasure) little diminished, but our mindes, thzough want of your company, not so merrie as when you were with them. for the fustie spirits of vascalloned wits, who understand no other wealth, then their owne will, make time tedious, which were it better exercised would be much more pleasing: and to tell you truth, were not bookes my better friends, I should be subiect to much melancholie: but my libzarie, though but little, stands me in much good stead: in which, if there be any book that may please you, I pray you make vse of it, and so soon as you wel may, let mee entreat your returne: and till then your often writing, that we may toy in our health, which as I hope of, I daily pray for: nelwes here are many, but so few true, or of any worth, that being in doubt what to beleue, till I haue further certaine intelligence: I will craue pardon for this time, and rest alwaies

Your assured louing friend, W. T.

The Answer.

If reading your letter, then which, nothing but your selfe can be more welcome: mee thinks I see the meeting of two Lovers in a morning, who surely dreaming of ech other in their sleepe, scarce well awake, came out with a kinde of wonder Oh Lord, how haue yondone since yester-night? so may I say to you, it is not a full weeke since we were together, & shall we feare silence, for so little a while? but, what shall I say? it is a pleasing humour, to sollicite loue, and a content to the minde, to
continue

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continue kindnesse, which fortune crosing in want of presence, witte can worke in spight of absence: let then the mudd: fishes dwell in the miry lakes, and the better natures seek the sweeter places: and for thy Librarie, I will not make thee zealous of my loue, but let me tell thee they are most sweete companions, and so for their owne sakes esteeme of them: and though I loue them, yet will I not depprue thee of any of them: but when I come to thee, with thy loue and leaue. I will dwell among them: for to an vnderstanding spirit, they are a kind of paradise. Now for my health, I thanke God, I neede no Physike, and for my purse, it hath vent enough for letting my money growe rustie: & for my minde, to tell thee truth, it is with God and thee: with whom I hope to be shortly, till when, & then, and euer I rest

What mine thine, F. R.

A Letter from a Father to his sonne at the Vniuersitie.

M^y deare sonne, as nothing can toy the heart of a father more then the obedience of a louing child, so can there be nothing more grievous, then the stubbozne spirit of an vngreatious sonne, I speake this to thee, knowing thy yeares and vnderstanding, able to digest the consideration of my desire, which in summe, is my ioy in thy good: for, let mee tell thee, my estate thou knowest, and how much I haue strained my credit, for thy aduancement, to which learning being a speedie and assured good meane, I would be glad to kee my comfort in thy profit, in such frutes of thy studie, as with the blessing of God, may hasten thy ppreferment: I am sozie to tell thee, that I heare thy diligence doth not answere my desire, and would gladly wish it other wise: but I hope, a kind admonition, will suffice to worke a good nature: and therefore will rather hope the best, than doubt the contrarie: and in the loue of a father, let mee contrait thee to auoid the company of a lewde fellowe, as rather an enemy then a friend: the feminine sexe, are dangerous to af-

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affect, for as they will be a losse of time, so with hinderance of study, they will procure expence: the exercise of the body, I admit for thy health: but let thy love be in thy learning, else wilt thou neuer be good scholler: for desire and delight, are the best masters both of art and knowledge, whilerascen vertuous, makes vnderstanding gracions: & therefore not cut of the bitter humour of displeasure, but the careful nature of affection, I wylle vnto thee to warne thee from what may hurt thee, and abuse thee for thine owne good: and so praying to God for thee, whom I beseech daily to blesse thee, with my hearts loue, to the Lozys blessing I leaue thee.

Thy louing father, H. N.

An Answer of the sonne to his Father.

After the bands of humble duty, my good Father, I haue receiued your most kind and louing letter, in which, how much Ioy I haue receiued, I cannot expresse: fearing rather your sharpe rebuke, then louing admonition: but God is himselfe, who can and doth worke more in some naturis, with a kinde chiding, then in some other, with many stripes: I know, you are not ignorant of the inclination of youth, and therefore doe thus kinde touch the hurt of vnbefusalnesse, for which, how much I do humbly thank you. I hope my care of your counsel, in time shall pleasingly tell you: therefore for what ill you haue heard, grieue not. and of the good you may heare, doubt not: & beleue me, for I will not abuse your trust, what vanity soeuer I haue seemd to affect, my hooke hath bene the mistresse of my loue: in which how much I will labour, and from which, what profit I will gather, your hope shall see in the effect of Gods blessing: without the which, how dangerous are diuerse studies, to the vnderstanding of migrations spirits, I would it were not knowne in any, and pray God, that none may know in me: for
my

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my preferment, I leaue it to Gods pleasure, who best knoweth how to dispose of his seruants: and for your contentment, that it may be in my obedience: your health as my worlds happines I pray for: mine owne moderate exercise, with abstinence from excess, both with Gods blessing hold in good state: and for the feminine sex, though I would be no hypocrite, yet I had rather read of them then be acquainted with the: for I follow of your opinion touching them: and so hoping, that ere long you shall receive as much content of my courses, as you haue euer doubted the contrary, in the dutie of my humble loue, I take my leave for this time, but rest alwayes

Your obedient sonne, T. N.

To his deare and onely beloued mistresse
Susan Pearle

Sweetest of my thoughts, and dearest of my loue, if I could had the power to expresse the nature of my passion, I am persuaded that the eye of thy beautie would bouchsafe a kinde look upon the heart of my loue, which continually languishing in the doubt of thy affection, desireth not to liue, but in the comfort of thy kindnesse: loth I am with ceremonious eloquence to moue suspicion of truth, and yet an Orient pearle would be set in pure golde: grosse speeches fitte not fine spirits, and for your selfe, I will rather honour then flatter you: and if I may serue you, I will so well deserue of you, that I will lay the hope of my worlds happinesse, vpon the honour of your fauour: for setting aside all care of other contentment, I haue bequeathed my life to your loue: in which if I faile in the truth of your trust let mee receiue the reward of your disgrace: which beeing more displeasing, then death can bee, let mee but entreat your admission of my seruice, beleeue of my loue, and regarde of my triaile: which, bee it in body, or in minde, shall haue no rest, but in your pleasure. What shall I say

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say but time is precious, and delayed patience in passion most
grievous. hasten therefore I beseech you the hope of my desire
in the happinesse of your commandement, and let no cloude of
mistrust barre me the light of your loue, which bring on this
earth the only bright Starre, that leads me to my worlds hea-
uen, let me live as in a depth, till I may revine in this comfort:
in hope wherof, and prayer for which, laying the head of my for-
tune, at the seete of your honour, I rest with little rest: till I
may fully and wholly rest

Tours onely and all, or mine owne nothing at all,

T. I.

F I N I S.



